

U.S. Says Missile Lead Over Soviets Is 4 to 1

U.S. officials say this country has a superiority over the Soviet Union of three or 4 to 1 in intercontinental ballistic missiles and intends to maintain that superiority. The count for U.S. missiles is set to reach 1000 Minuteman, 65 Polaris and 54 liquid-fueled missiles. In addition the United States has 700 bombers.

To the best knowledge of U.S. officials, the Soviets presently have no solid-fueled quick-firing ICBM missiles like the Minuteman and the submarine-launched Polaris, and the Soviets do not appear to be developing one.

On the question of missiles and air defense, officials express these thoughts:

Three kinds of threat exist. The first is the threat of sophisticated Soviet missiles. The next one is what they consider the lesser threat of missile attack by Red China. The third defense question is a system of defense for U.S. ICBM bases against enemy attack.

The Defense Department is expected to decide in December whether to go ahead and deploy the proposed Nike-X anti-missile with an accompanying program for a Fall-out-shelter system. The system would cost \$20 billion whereas the anti-Chinese system would cost \$6 billion to \$10 billion. If a decision is made to go ahead, this will show up officially in the Pentagon's fiscal 1967 budget request to the White House and Congress.

Available information indicates that Russia is working on her own development of a reliable anti-missile system but has not yet attained this objective. Information was said to be lacking on whether the Soviets are working on liquid-fueled medium range ballistic missiles (MRBMS).